

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 10007

FODAG

FOR IO MAYNES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FAO, AORG, APER
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL, FAO

SUMMARY: AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL (B), BYRNES HAD FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL THURSDAY, JUNE 16, ON EVALUATION TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM (TCP). DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS NOT PURSUED THINKING MUCH BEYOND VIEWS RAISED IN EARLIER TALK WITH FRANK BECAUSE OF PREOCCUPATION WITH COUNCIL. HE SPOKE CANDIDLY ON VARIETY ADDITIONAL ISSUES CONCERNING FAO, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP), AND WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC). END SUMMARY

1. BYRNES MET WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA THURSDAY, JUNE 16, AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL (B). HE CONVEYED WASHINGTON'S APPRECIATION FOR CANDID DISCUSSION TCP WITH FRANK-BYRNES PREVIOUS WEEK AND FOR HIS SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS TO COUNCIL ON EVALUATION OF TCP. DIRECTOR GENERAL WAS INFORMED THAT WE HAD TAKEN NOTE OF HIS CAREFULLY WORDED STATEMENT AND APPRECIATED FACT HE WOULD STUDY HOW BEST TO CARRY OUT EVALUATION WHICH WOULD BE OBJECTIVE AND COMPLETED IN TIME FOR STUDY BEFORE PROPOSALS BY 1980-81 ARE PRESENTED.

2. SAOUMA SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT
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TO HOW THE EVALUATION MIGHT BE CONDUCTED BECAUSE OF THE DEMANDS THE COUNCIL HAD MADE ON HIS TIME. HE WOULD, HOWEVER, BE WORKING ON THIS. HE ACCEPTED BYRNES SUGGESTION THAT THE U.S. MIGHT PROVIDE SOME VIEWS ON PROCEDURES AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE OCTOBER CONSULTATION WHICH HE HAD SUGGESTED IN EARLIER TALK. IN THIS REGARD HE SAID HE WILL VISIT CUBA AND MEXICO IN OCTOBER AND CONCEIVABLY COULD STOP IN WASHINGTON FOR ONE

DAY PRIOR ACC SESSION IN NEW YORK. ALTERNATIVELY, PERHAPS HE COULD CONSULT WITH US IN NEW YORK. HE DID NOT REPEAT EARLIER OFFER TO SEND WEST TO WASHINGTON AND BYRNES DID NOT RAISE SINCE "CONSULTATION" MIGHT BEST BE HANDLED DIRECTLY WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL, HOWEVER CUMBERSOME THIS MIGHT BE BECAUSE OF SCHEDULES. HE AGREED OCTOBER CONSULTATION WAS QUITE LATE AND WE WOULD NEED EARLIER COMMUNICATION ON THIS MATTER. (SUBSEQUENT TO DRAFTING ABOVE, PLENARY ACTION INVOLVING DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS CAST SEVERE DOUBTS ON WEHTEHR AN OBJECTIVE EVALUATION CAN BE OBTAINED. THIS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL WITH INFO COPY TO GENEVA FOR FRANK.)

3. SAOUMA THEN MOVED TO A VARIETY OF OTHER ATTERS: (A) BUDGET LEVEL--HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED GENERALLY WITH OUTCOME OF COUNCIL BUT HOPED FOR UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR HIS MODEST BUDGET INCREASE IN NOVEMBER. HE MAINTAINED THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES (HE CITED CHINA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA), WHICH RECEIVE LITTLE FROM FAO AND HAVE NO STAFF IN SECRETARIAT, ARE AGAINST OTHER THAN MINIMAL INCREASES AND HE DOES NOT PLAN ANY LARGE INCREASES (INCLUDING TCP) IN FUTURE YEARS. HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD SUPPORT THE PROPOSED \$206.8 MILLION FOR 1978-79. BYRNES TOLD SAOUMA WE HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS FAO AND WANT TO BE AS SUPPORTIVE AS WE CAN ON THE BUDGET AND OTHER ISSUES. HE SAID HE FORESAW SEVERAL PROBLEMS FOR NOVEMBER, I.E. A SATISFACTORY MEANS FOR EVALUATING THE TCP, THE PROPOSED FUNDING OF A POST-HARVEST LOSS (PHL) FUND FOR SUSPENSE ACCOUNT RESOURCES AND THE PROPOSED NEW SPECIAL RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR CURRENCY FLUCTUATION PROTECTION, UNBUDGETED COSTS ARISING FROM INFLATION, BUDGETARY EXPENDITURE SHOULD THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND PROVE CONFIDENTIAL

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INSUFFICIENT AND "SUCH OTHER PURPOSES AS THE COUNCIL MIGHT DECIDE". REGARDING PHL HE REMINDED SAOUMA OF FRANK'S EARLIER DISCUSSION AND SAID WE WILL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO FIND ANOTHER WAY OF FINANCING THIS PROGRAM. WE CANNOT AGREE TO USING THE SUSPENSE ACCOUNT FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A PHL FUND. ON THE NEW SPECIAL RESERVE ACCOUNT BYRNES NOTED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL WAS ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE MAJOR DONORS. AGAIN, PERHAPS AN ALTERNATIVE COULD BE DEVELOPED. IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAD NOT EXPLORED ALTERNATIVES BUT WE WOULD SEE WHAT MIGHT BE SUGGESTED. HE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO HAVING THE CONFERENCE FACE ALTERNATIVE CHOICES.

(B) PERSONNEL--THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SAID HE HAD NEWS HE WANTED TO PASS ALONG CONCERNING VOGEL OF CANADA. HE HAD SPOKEN WEDNESDAY WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AND THEY HAD AGREED TO APPOINT VOGEL AS WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, IF VOGEL DESIRES, OR FOLLOWING THE FOURTH WFP-CFA SESSION (OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 4), IF VOGEL WOULD PREFER NOT TO HANDLE THAT MEETING. HE SAID ROBINSON IS AWARE OF THIS PLAN-

NING AND IS FLEXIBLE. SAOUMA EXPECTS TO SEE WALDHEIM IN JULY. THEY WILL AGREE THEN ON A JOINT LETTER ASKING THE CONCURRENCE OF CFA MEMBERS BUT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL EXPECTS NO OPPOSITION. (DELEGATION LEARNED LATER THAT CANADA HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE DECISION ON VOGEL. THEY WISH TO KEEP IT QUIET FOR PRESENT.)

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 10007

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WITH PERSONNEL ISSUE RAISED BYRNES REMINDED SAOUMA OF THE SPECIFIC POSTS WHICH EARLIER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH MAYNES AND ASKED IF APPLICATIONS SHOULD NOW BE SUBMITTED TO HIM FOR THESE POSTS. HE CONCURRED SAYING HE HAS DONE HIS BEST TO HIRE AMERICANS IN FAO AND HAS JUST RECEIVED THE ACCEPTANCE OF MUSSMAN OF USDA FOR THE ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND PROTECTION DIVISION. HE SAID HE STILL HOPES TO PERSUADE PROFESSOR CALLOWAY TO ACCEPT THE NUTRITION DIRECTOR POSITION AND WILL HOLD IT OPEN FOR HER FOR THE YEAR THEY DISCUSSED IF NECESSARY. SPECIFICALLY ON THE POSTS HE DISCUSSED WITH MAYNES, HE SAID WE SHOULD GE OUR APPLI- CATIONS TO HIM BUT HE CAREFULLY AVOIDED SAYING THESE WOULD BE OUR POSTS. HE DID SPEAK OF THE DDG POSITION, SAYING HIS CURRENT THOUGHT WAS TO REPLACE JACKSON AT THE END OF THE YEAR BUT THIS WAS NOT FIRM AND HE MIGHT POSSIBLE EXTEND HIM. AGAIN, APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO HIM.

(C) PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES--SAOUMA SAID HE WAS UNHAPPY THE COUNCIL HAD ENDORSED PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES BEING COMPOSED OF GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES RATHER THAN PERSONS SELECTED IN PERSONAL CAPACITY. HE THOUGHT GOVERN- MENT REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE LESS EFFECTIVE AND THE SELECTION PROCESS WOULD BE ONE MORE AVENUE FOR INJECTING POLITICAL CON- sideration INTO FAO. SURPRISINGLY, HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT UNDER

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THE PRINCIPLES RECOMMENDED BY THE COUNCIL THREE MEMBERS OF THE PROPOSED ELEVEN-MEMBER PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND THREE MEMBERS OF THE PROPOSED NINE-MEMBER FINANCE COMMITTEE ARE GUARANTEED TO BE FROM DEVELOPED REGIONS, I.E. EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH-EST PACIFIC.

(D) INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAND OF THE COUNCIL--THE DIRECTOR GENERAL COMPAINED BITTERLY ABOUT THE PRESENT INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN (BULA HOYAS OF COLUMBIA) AND SAID HE WILL BE GLAD TO SEE HIS TERM END NOVEMBER 10. HE SAID CAMARA OF GUINEA HAS SAID HE WILL WITHDRAW HIS CANDIDACY AND THIS LEAVES ONLY BUKAR SHAIB OF NIGERIA STANDING FOR INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN. HE CALLED THE LATTER UNPREDICTABLE BUT AN IMPROVEMENT EOVER BULA HOYAS AND SAID HIS PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO HAVE A CHAIRMAN ELECTED EACH YEAR SINCE THIS WOUL HELP PRECLUDE MEDDLING BETWEEN COUNCIL SESSIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE REGIONAL CONFERENCES. WITH REGARD TO BUKAR SHAIB BEING FROM AFRICA, HE CONFIDED THAT THE AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP IN FAO (47) MAKES HIM UNEASY SINCE THIS IS A TREMENDOUS, NOT WELL-INFORMED AND UNPREDICTABLE BLOC.

(E) ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE--SAOUMA SAID HE APPRECIATED THE FACT THAT THE U.S. COMMENTS ON THIS ITEM HAD SUPPORTED MORE THAN A SINGLE TERM OF OFFICE FOR DIRECTORS GENERAL BUT THOUGHT IF WE SUPPORTED A FOUR-YEAR PLUS FOUR-YEAR SCHEME, WITH NO RE-ELECTION BEYOND THAT, IN FAO WE SHOULD INSIST ON THE SAME PROCEDURES IN OTHER AGENCIES. WHILE THERE PROBABLY SHOULD BE UNIFORM SYSTEM, BYRNES NOTED THAT THERE ARE VARIED PROCEDURES WITHIN THE SYSTEM AND FAO HAD CHANGED ITS OWN CONSTITUTION A NUMBER OF TIMES WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED LITTLE TO UNIFORMITY. BYRNES SAID THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM A NUMBER OF AREAS HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF OPEN-ENDED TERMS IN FAO. SHOULD THIS BE AGREED IT COULD BE MANY YEARS BEFORE AREAS MIGHT EXPECT TO SEE A NATIONAL FROM ONE OF THEIR COUNTRIES ELECTED. THIS CAUSED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO REVERT BRIEFLY TO HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE AFRICAN BLOC. HE SAID THEY HAVE THE VOTES--THEY CAN

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DO ANYTHING THEY WISH.

WORLD FOOD COUNCIL--THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SAID HE HAS HEARD BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE THE STORY THAT THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL BECOME VACANT AS OF OCTOBER 1. HE SAID HE IS CONVINCED THE INCUMBENT WILL STAY ON AS LONG AS HE CAN.

U.S. SUPPORT FOR FAO--WITH NO ENCOURAGEMENT ON THE ISSUE,
SAOUMA STATED THAT PERHAPS EARLY NEXT YEAR IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR
HIM TO VISIT WASHINGTON AND MEET WITH A NUMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL
MEMBERS, AS HE DID ON HIS LAST VISIT IN THE SPRING--PERHAPS A
GREATER NUMBER. HE THOUGHT A GIVE-AND-TAKE DISCUSSION ON WHAT
FAO IS AND WHAT IT CAN DO MIGHT HELP STRENGTHEN U.S. SUPPORT
FOR THE ORGANIZATION. IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS COULD BE USEFUL
AND WE COULD LATER LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY.GARDNER

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